

Message Text

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15

ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

66640

DRAFTED BY: AF/ EPS: GRKENNEY

APPROVED BY: AF: RSSMITH

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R 052216 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063397

ADDIS ABABA FOR DUNCAN

FOL TEL SENT SECSTATE INFO ABIDJAN, COTONOU, LOME, NIAMEY,
OUAGADOUGOU, PARIS FROM LAGOS APRIL 4 TH:

QUOTE: LAGOS 2707

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IV, NI

SUBJECT: ARIKPO VISIT TO IVORY COAST

REFS : ABIDJAN 1981, 2043

BEGIN SUMMARY: MEA ACCOUNT OF ARIKPO VISIT TO IVORY COAST
LARGELY COINCIDES WITH PICTURE PAINTED BY REFTELS, BUT SHOWS
STRONG UNDERTONE OF RESIDUAL SUSPICION WHICH VISIT CLEARLY
FAILED DISPEL. END SUMMARY.

1. MEA DIRECTOR AFRICA DEPT. MUSA, WHO ACCOMPAINED
COMMISSIONER EXTAFF ARIKPO ON IVORY COAST VISIT MARCH 19-22 ,
GAVE US ACCOUNT OF TRIP APRIL 3 WHICH LARGELY COINCIDES WITH
PICUTRE PAINTED REFTELS. HE CONFIRMED WARMTH OF GOIC
RECEPTION, CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE WHICH PREVADED TALKS , AND
SATISFACTION THAT VISIT MARCKED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
TOWARD CLOSER BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

2. IT WAS CLEAR IN DISCUSSION WITH MUSA, HOWEVER, THE
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NIGERIANS NOT CONVINCED THEY WILL SOON SEE EYE TO EYE
WITH GOIC ON ISSUES WHICH TOP FMG PRIORITY LIST-- WEST
AFRICAN ECONOMIC INTERGRATION AND PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN
AFRICA. DESPITE SOOTHING WORDS OF COMMUNIQUE, SUSPICION
PERSISTS THAT GOIC TOO CLOSELY TIED TO FRANCE TO ADOPT
SUFFICIENTLY INDEPENDENT STANCE TO BRING ITS POLICIES INTO
LINE WITH THOSE OF FMG. IVORIANS TOLD THEIR NIGERIAN
VISITORS THAT THEY ARE GRADUALLY DISENTANGLING FROM FRANCE,
BUT MUSA OBSERVED TO EMBOFF THAT FRENCH GRIP ON ECONOMY
STILL SEEMS TO STRONG FOR GOIC TO TAKE
COMMERCIAL 35 MM FILMS CAN BE PROCESSED: KODAK KODACHROME;
KODAK EKTACHROME FILM; AND ANY OTHER 35 MM COLOR SLIDE FILM
THAT CAN BE PROCESSED MORE QUICKLY THAN EITHER KODACHROME
OR EKTACHROME. ROGERS UNQUOTE ROGERS

UNCLASSIFIED

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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